EVENTS OF THE WEEK OVERSEAS

Irish Peace in Balance---German Crisis

ish government's offer to Ireland is based on the argument that the conditions contained in the British proposal deny to the Irish people their complete independence; that the fact of geographical propinquity and British strategic interest are not just grounds for the subordination of Ireland's independence; and that peace can be secured only on the "broad guiding principle of government by the consent of the governed." In his reply Premier Lloyd George pointed out that Mr. De Valera's note seemed to assume that no discussions had already taken place and to ignore the fact that in these previous discussions the premier had made it clear that no settlement could be discussed which involved "a refusal on the part of Ireland to accept a free, equal and loyal partnership in the British commonwealth under one sovereign." With regard to the contention that the British refusal to treat Ireland as a separate sovereign power is inconsistent with the principle of government by the consent of the governed, Mr. Lloyd George argued that "there is no political principle, however clear, that can be applied without regard to limitations imposed by physical and historical facts. These limitations are as necessary as the very principle itself to the structure of every free nation; to deny them would involve the dissolution of all democratic states." In conclusion the premier pointed out that it was necessary that the negotiations should make more progress than Mr. De Valera's note showed, if these negotiations are to continue. He declared himself ready, however, to meet the Irish leaders if they were prepared to attempt to reconcile their aspirations with the fundamental attitude of the British government.

Since this interchange of notes the Irish leaders have made no announcement which would indicate the nature of the reply they will make. In unofficial circles confidence is expressed that direct negotiations with Mr. Lloyd George will be renewed. If this proves to be the case, it would seem that the Dail was prepared to negotiate on the basis of Ireland's acceptance of a "free, equal, and loyal partnership in the British commonwealth." Or in other words that they are ready to recognize the realities of the situation and perhaps to accept the wise and statesmanlike policy which Gen. Smuts urged them to adopt in his letter to Mr. De Valera. In this letter, it will be recalled, Gen. Smuts wrote: "...... I do not consider one single clean cut solution of the Irish question possible at present. You will have to pass through several stages, of which a free constitution for Southern Ireland is the first and the inclusion of Ulster and full recognition of Irish unity will be the last. Only the first stage will render the last possible. To reverse the process and to begin with Irish unity as the first step is to imperil the whole settlement. Irish unity should be the ideal to which the whole process should be directed...... Freedom will lead inevitably to unity..... As to the form of that freedom, here, too, you are calld upon to choose between two alternatives. To you, as you say, a republic is the true expression of national self-determination, but it is not the only expression, and it is an expression which means your final and irrevocable severance from the British league, and to this, as you know, the Parliament and people of this country will not agree."

It would seem that in view of the past and the present situation, the soundness and wisdom of Gen. Smuts' advice must be recognized by those who hold Ireland's future in their hands. It is not to be expected that the present members of the Dail Eireann will take the responsibility of a modification of it since they have taken oaths to the "republic," but it is surely to be hoped that they will not take the responsibility of finally refusing the dominion status without referring the whole question to the Irish

International Relief in Russia.

THE meeting in Paris of delegates representing France, Great Britain, Belgium, Italy and Japan constituting the International Commission for Russian Relief, was attended by Walter Lyman Brown, the European director of the American relief administration, who recently concluded the agreement with the Soviet government for the feeding of Russian children. The most important announcement which has come from this session is that while the American organization would co-operate in every way with the international committee, it would not relinquish control of its operations to that body. It appears from dispatches that some of the representatives at the Paris meeting have expressed their disappointment that the Americans will not permit their relief action to be absorbed in in international program. There is little question, however, but that the policy announced by Mr. Brown not only will insure the best results, but in view of the circumstances is the only policy the American organization can adopt. There is, of course, nothing in the American policy which will prevent the nations represented on the

THE DAIL EIREANN'S rejection of the Brit- international committee from sending relief to Russia either individually or collectively.

> The American action, it must not be forgotten, is being carried on by a private organization. Its object is to save Russian children without regard to political or commercial considerations. In order to achieve this object it has reached an agreement with the Soviet government by which it undertakes to carry on its operations without engaging in political activity and in turn it is to be free from political interference by the Russian authorities. If the American relief were to surrender the control of its opera-

MIRROR SPEECH STUDY



BY observing their own ordl movements in small mir-Prors, students at the University College, London, acquire English speech with startling rapidity, according to reports. The pupils come from all parts of the world.

tions to the international committee, the whole aspect of the situation would have been changed, new agreements would have to be negotiated, new programs laid out and the whole business of providing relief complicated and needlessly delayed. The So-viet government, furthermore, is very suspicious of international interference of any kind in Russia. The difficulties which might develop are innumerable. The fate which has overtaken the all-Russian famine committee, which was appointed to go abroad in the interests of Russian relief but has since been dissolved, illustrates the sort of thing which may be expected to occur. Whether dissolution of the all-Russian committee was the result of the attempt of the Whites to make use of this committee for a counter-revolution, as is charged by the Soviets,, or whether its dissolution was merely one of the eccentricities of Soviet policy, as is charged by the Whites, does not matter. The incident very clearly shows the difficulty, or the impossibility, of furnishing relief in Russia under any other arrangement than one like that adopted by the American relief administration, in which the danger of political complications is completely removed or as completely removed as is possible in any transaction with the present Russian government.

The Indian Riots.

The early dispatches which seemed to indicate that the riots in the Malabar district of India were of political origin and part of the Indian Nationalist movement have not been borne out. The attacks directed at first against Europeans and later against the Hindu natives were made by Moplah fanatics who are Mohammedans of Arab descent. The immediate cause of the uprising was an attempt to arrest certain Mohammedans charged with inciting to violence, but the real cause appears to be propaganda to the effect that great wrongs have been and are being done to the Mohammedans of Turkey by the allies. British and Indian troops have been sent into th Malabar district and order is gradually being restored, although bloody clashes between the Moplahs and Hindus continue to occur in the more remote places. The possibility of a revolt of the tribesmen in the north of India has caused uneasiness, but up to the present no outbreak in that region has occurred.

T is not yet clear whether the assassination of Matthias Erzberger by German monarchists has resulted in what is really a very serious political crisis or merely in a situation that has been played up for all it is worth by the Wirth government to strengthen itself with the German pople and to create a favorable impression with the league council, which is preparing a decision on the division of Upper Silesia. There is no doubt about the fire works which the assassination has caused in the German press. The Independent and Majority Socialist papers as well as some of the organs of the Catholic party to which Herr Erzberger belonged have violently attacked the Nationalists and have charged the reactionary press with moral responsibility for the former vice chancllor's death. By way of reply, the Nationalist papers have brought libel suits against their accusers. As for the German government, it has given every indication of fearing that the monarchists were preparing to attempt a new revolution.

It has seized this opportunity to issue strict decrees against monarchist demonstrations and against the publication of articles advocating the overthrow of the republic. Is has also issued new regulations forbidding the wearing of the imperial uniform by former officers except by permission of the government authorities. At the same time the republican leaders appear to have encouraged rather than discouraged demonstrations for the republic throughout

the country.

To these decrees and to the democratic demonstrations the Nationalists have not replied, but it is obvious that the incident has furnished the Wirth government with an opportunity to improve its position. Whatever strength the government has gained will be needed when the Reichstag assembles and takes up the discussion of the drastic taxation measures formulated by Dr. Wirth to provide funds for reparations. The bitterness which has been engendered by the assassination of Herr Erzberger and subsequent events is likely to deprive the chancellor of the advantage he has derived from the benevolent neutrality of the German people's party and may force him to reconstruct his cabinet by making a shift to the Left in order to gain the support of the Independent Socialists. If he is able to do this and still retain the support of the Catholic and Democratic parties, his position will be strengthened and the difficult problems he has to meet will be simplified.

Notes on Foreign Affairs.

IN his speech at Barnsley Mr. Lloyd George com-plained that his lot was a hard one. In other countries things are better arranged. The ministers usually worked in relays and thus each gained a rest whether he needed it or not. The British premier called attention to the fact that since he had assumed his present office there had been six premiers in France, six in Italy, and nine in Germany. The political leaders in those countries have an easy time of it. There are a great many who unquestionably sympathize with the British leader, who think that a vacation would be good for him and the country and they would like to see that he has one-a permanent The difficulty is-to find the man who could step into the premier's shoes and wear them comfortably.

The Greek-Turkish war got back into the limelight again during the past week when the Nationalists administered a defeat to the Greeks along the Sakaria River. This engagement seems to have had no far reaching effects and does not appear to be part of any important operation. No great activity is likely to occur for sometime as both armies are having great difficulties in securing an adequate water supply.

A Moscow dispatch says that the Soviet Russian government has granted a concession to engage in extensive mining operations in Siberia to a London corporation. This is particularly interesting in view of the fact that the mines for which the concessions are granted were owned and operated by the concessionaire before the Russian revolution and the subsequent nationalization by the Soviet government.

An important decision made by the council of the league at its meeting in Geneva to formulate a solution of the Upper Silesian problem is that the question is not an international issue but a problem of interpreting one of the clauses of the treaty of Versailles. This means that the council will not consider it necessary to hear arguments by the Polish and German governments. Viscount Ishii, who is president of the council, and is also acting as reporter, presented a carefully impartial report at the first sitting. The decision of the council when rendered will be judicial and not political and must be unanimous. In case agreement is impossible the question may be referred to the international court of justice which will be set up after judges have been elected at the forthcoming meeting of the assembly of the league.